

In the Claims

A full listing of the claims follows:

1. (Currently amended) A desiccant container, with increased tightness, made of thermoplastic polymer materials, for the packaging of products sensitive to ambient moisture, presented in processed or unprocessed forms comprising:

- a tubular casing, forming a product packaging zone, the tubular casing being closed at a first end by a base and open at a second end and containing a tubular wall extending from said base to said open second end,
- sealing means at the second end of the tubular casing,
- connection means disposed between the sealing means and the tubular casing,
- packaging means of a desiccant agent placed on an inner face of the sealing means,
- a collar-type outer peripheral stop, disposed in a vicinity of the open end of the tubular casing, the sealing means being supported in a closed position thereof, wherein,
 - a) the sealing means of the open end of the tubular casing comprises a cap-lid coaxial with the tubular casing, the cap-lid comprising an upper end wall and two concentric tubular peripheral walls comprising one inner wall and one outer wall, the inner wall and outer wall forming together a peripheral groove having walls distanced from each other to cover, when said sealing means is closed, a peripheral wall of the said open end of the tubular casing up to said outer peripheral stop, ~~and~~
 - b) the connection means between the tubular casing and the sealing means comprises a mechanical hinge, ensuring the precision of closure, the mechanical hinge being

formed by a male part incorporated in the tubular casing and a female part incorporated in the cap-lid, the male part comprising two bracket plates connected to each other by a rotation axis, and the outer wall of the peripheral groove being rendered discontinuous by notches formed to house the bracket plates, and wherein a base of the peripheral groove has a cross section that is the same as a cross section of the peripheral edge of the second end of the casing and wherein said cross sections comprise arcs of a circle

c) wherein an upper edge of an outer surface of the open end of the wall of the tubular casing comprises a protuberance which extends only partially around a circumference of the open end of the wall of the tubular casing and wherein the protuberance contacts the inner surface of the outer wall of the cap lid when the cap lid is closed onto the tubular casing.

2.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein a first surface-to-surface type peripheral tightness zone is established between the outer wall of the peripheral groove and an outer face of the wall of the second end of the tubular casing.

3.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 2, wherein a second surface-to-surface type peripheral tightness zone is created between a peripheral base of the peripheral groove and a peripheral edge of the second end of the tubular casing.

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein a peripheral edge of the second end of the casing is in the prolongation of said casing.

8.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein a peripheral edge of the second end of the casing protrudes from said casing.

9.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein the distance between the inner and outer walls of the groove is at least equal to the thickness of the tubular casing.

10.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 3, wherein a third surface-to-surface type peripheral tightness zone is established between an inner surface of the inner wall of the peripheral groove and an inner surface of the second end.

11.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 10, wherein the contact height of the third surface-to-surface type peripheral tightness zone extends from a lower end of the inner wall to a base of the groove.

12. (Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein the height of said inner wall of the groove is at least equal to the height of said outer wall of said groove.

13.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein an inner surface of the inner wall comprises an annular peripheral protuberance.

14.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 13 wherein said annular type peripheral protuberance is engaged into a corresponding peripheral groove placed on the inner wall of the second end of the casing.

15.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein a fourth surface-to-surface type peripheral tightness zone is established between a plane lower edge of the outer wall of the groove and a plate of the outer peripheral stop.

16.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the depth of the peripheral groove is from 45% to 95% of the thickness of the cap-lid measured on the outer wall of said groove.

17.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein the outer wall of the peripheral groove is continuous.

18.(canceled)

19.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the cap-lid is equipped with a gripping visor.

20.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein an inner face of the outer wall of the groove and an outer face of the outer wall of the tubular casing are equipped with snap-on means.

21. (canceled)

22. (canceled)

23.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the rotation axis is prolonged beyond both bracket plates by protruding ends.

24.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 23, wherein the female part of the hinge, incorporated in the cap-lid, comprises:

- two bracket plates placed at a distance with respect to each other such that said plates can encompass the bracket plates of the male part of the hinge, and
- a second groove intended to receive the rotation axis, delimited by inner and outer walls.

25.(Currently amended) A desiccant container according to claim 24, wherein the bracket plates of said female parts are equipped with orifices to receive the protruding ends of the rotation axis.

26.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 24, wherein the length of the second groove intended to receive the rotation axis is at most equal to the distance existing between the inner faces of the bracket plates.

27.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the packaging means of a desiccant agent placed on the inner face of the cap-lid is tubular.

28.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the tubular casing and the cap-lid are produced together with the same thermoplastic polymer composition.

29.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1 wherein the tubular casing and the cap-lid are produced with different thermoplastic polymer compositions.

30.(Previously presented) A container according to claim 1, wherein the tubular casing and the cap-lid are produced using plastics technology methods using at least one thermoplastic polymer composition selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes (PE), polypropylenes (PP), ethylene/propylene copolymers and mixtures thereof, polyamides (PA), polystyrenes (PS), acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene copolymers (ABS), styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers (SAN), polyvinyl chlorides (PVC), polycarbonates (PC), polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), and polyethylene terephthalates (PET).

31.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 30, wherein the thermoplastic composition is associated with at least one elastomer of natural or synthetic origin.

32.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the desiccant agent is in powder form.

33. (Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the desiccant agent is at least one selected from the group consisting of silica gels, and molecular sieves.

34.(Currently amended) A method for packaging a product sensitive to ambient moisture comprising placing said product in a desiccant container made of thermoplastic polymer materials, said desiccant container comprising:

- a tubular casing, forming a product packaging zone, the

tubular casing being closed at a first end by a base and open at a second end and containing a tubular wall extending from said base to said open end,

- sealing means at the open end of the tubular casing,
- connection means disposed between the sealing means and the tubular casing,
- packaging means of a desiccant agent placed on an inner face of the sealing means,
- a collar-type outer peripheral stop, disposed in a vicinity of the open end of the tubular casing, the sealing means being supported in a closed position thereof, wherein,

a) the sealing means of the open end of the tubular casing comprises a cap-lid coaxial with the tubular casing, the cap-lid comprising an upper end wall and two concentric tubular peripheral walls comprising one inner wall and one outer wall, the inner wall and outer wall forming together a peripheral groove having walls distanced from each other to cover, when said sealing means is closed, a peripheral wall of the said open end of the tubular casing up to said outer peripheral stop, and

b) the connection means between the tubular casing and the sealing means comprises a mechanical hinge, ensuring the precision of closure, the mechanical hinge being formed by a male part incorporated in the tubular casing and a female part incorporated in the cap-lid, the male part comprising two bracket plates connected to each other by a rotation axis, and the outer wall of the peripheral groove being rendered discontinuous by notches formed to house the bracket plates, and ~~wherein an inner surface of the inner wall comprises an annular peripheral protuberance and wherein the inner wall of the second end of the casing contains a corresponding peripheral groove such that when~~

~~the cap lid is secured onto the tubular casing the peripheral protuberance is engaged into the corresponding peripheral groove and wherein the height of the inner wall of the groove is at least equal to the height of the outer wall of said groove~~

c) wherein an upper edge of an outer surface of the open end of the wall of the tubular casing comprises a protuberance which extends only partially around a circumference of the open end of the wall of the tubular casing and wherein the protuberance contacts the inner surface of the outer wall of the cap lid when the cap lid is closed onto the tubular casing.

35.(Previously presented) A desiccant container according to claim 1, wherein the cap-lid forms four successive surface-to-surface type tightness peripheral zones forming four successive tightness barriers between the second end of the tubular casing and the cap-lid.

36.(New) The desiccant container of claim 1, wherein the protuberance does not extend to that portion of the wall of the tubular casing closest to the hinge when the cap lid is closed on the tubular casing.

37.(New) The desiccant container of claim 1, wherein the protuberance contacts that portion of the wall of the tubular casing furthest from the hinge when the cap lid is closed on the tubular casing.

38.(New) The method of claim 34, wherein the protuberance does not extend to that portion of the wall of the tubular casing closest to the hinge when the cap lid is closed on the tubular casing.

39.(New) The method of claim 34, wherein the protuberance contacts that portion of the wall of the tubular casing furthest from the hinge when the cap lid is closed on the tubular casing.